

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 9.

1. (Currently Amended) A safety syringe comprising:

- a) an interchangeable needle;
- b) an elongated barrel having first and second ends, the interchangeable needle attached to a threaded first end of the barrel;
- c) a plunger sized and shaped to be received in the second end of the barrel and to be moveable therein;
- d) a moveable base adapted to releasably constrain a needle hub, said moveable base adapted for slideable movement of said base and said needle hub within an interior of said elongated barrel and in the direction of said first end of said barrel;
- e) a spring, at least partially compressed, said spring positioned entirely within the barrel and surrounding a portion of said needle hub between a base of said needle hub and said threaded first end of said barrel, said spring adapted to bias the interchangeable needle within the barrel; and
- f) at least one support member having a first end and a second end, said support member positioned within said barrel, said first end of said support member engaging said base and a second end engaging an edge of a needle assembly, said needle assembly edge positioned along an interior wall of said barrel, said at least one support member further surrounding an axial portion of each of said needle hub and said partially compressed spring; and,

wherein the plunger is moved within the barrel applying force to the interchangeable needle and causing the spring to retract the needle hub and associated interchangeable needle within the plunger.

2. (Previously Amended) The syringe of claim 1 further catches having flexible supports on the base.

3. (Previously Amended) The syringe of claim 2 further comprising an integral sacrificial seal on the base.
4. (Original) The safety syringe of claim 3 in which the needle further comprises an interchangeable needle head, which is adapted for mating insertion with a needle hub associated with the first end of the barrel.
5. (Previously Amended) The safety syringe of claim 4 in which the interchangeable needle head has a portion with threads thereon adapted for mating with threads of the needle hub and for screwing the interchangeable needle head to the barrel and wherein the plunger has a rupturable web on one end through which the needle hub is forced when the spring triggers.
6. (Original) The syringe of claim 5 further comprising a circular groove on the needle hub for guiding the needle head into the syringe.
7. (Original) The syringe of claim 5 wherein the needle head is formed to lock behind a needle catch in the plunger.
8. (Original) The syringe of claim 5 further comprising a needle guard releasably affixing the needle and needle head therein.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a safety syringe with an interchangeable needle selected from a plurality of needles having differing characteristics, the method comprising:
 - a) selecting a first threaded needle from the plurality of threaded needles;
 - b) associating the first threaded needle with a syringe comprising a needle assembly, a threaded barrel and a plunger;
 - c) injecting a fluid from the syringe;

d) moving a plunger having a seal through the elongated barrel into contact with a movable base in the elongated barrel, said moveable base containing a hub of said first needle and in communication with a spring positioned on said hub between a base of said hub and a threaded portion of said first threaded needle, said needle hub and said spring moveable as said base moves;

e) forcing the base containing said hub of said needle, a support engaging said base and surrounding an axial portion of said hub and further surrounding [a] said spring partially supported on said hub, in the direction of the needle assembly such that said spring is triggered, thereby projecting the needle into a hollow of the plunger.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising capturing the needle hub and the needle within the hollow of the plunger and locking the needle hub and plunger within the barrel.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising guiding the needle head into the syringe by using a circular groove on the needle assembly.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

a) applying force to a thumb push of the syringe transmitting a force along the plunger to the base, which is deformable and coupled to supports;

b) continuing the application of force until the supports flex and close forcing a flange to move along a wall of a needle assembly allowing forward movement of the deformable base and the needle therein and compression of an energy storage means;

c) deforming the deformable base causing the flange to lose contact with the deformable base, which thereby releases energy stored within the energy storage means to project the interchangeable needle into a hollow of the plunger;

d) locking the interchangeable needle in the plunger via a measuring means;

e) revealing a biohazard label viewable through the barrel; and

f) locking the plunger within the barrel to form a liquid tight seal between the plunger and the barrel.

13. (Previously Amended) An interchangeable needle safety syringe formed by a process comprising:

a) threading a needle hub having a needle into a needle assembly, the needle assembly defining a passageway and including a spring thereon such that the needle hub is received in the passageway and the spring is partly compressed on the needle assembly;

b) inserting the needle assembly in a mateable base of a hollow barrel, the base constructed and arranged to releasably retain the needle assembly, said base and an adjacent support member being moveable within said hollow barrel said support member positioned alongside an axial portion of said needle assembly containing said spring;

c) biasing the base with the spring preventing unintentional movement within the hollow barrel; and

d) inserting a plunger having a seal within the hollow barrel until the plunger mates with the base.

14. Previously Canceled

15. (Previously Amended) The syringe of claim 1 further comprising a block defined by said needle hub, said block engaging an edge of a passageway defined by said needle assembly.

16. (Previously Amended) The syringe of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of fins defined along an exterior of a needle head, said fins adapted for mating with a corresponding slot defined by an interior of a needle guard.

17-18 Previously Canceled